



## Public Health Department

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### Environmental Health Division

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## Medical Waste Information Bulletin and Disposal Guide

Recent changes in state law (*sharps*) and the disclosure that medical waste constituents (*pharmaceuticals*) have been found in drinking water have focused public attention on *medical waste management*. For purposes of this bulletin, medical waste can be divided into two basic groups, *sharps* and *biohazards* (which include pharmaceuticals). Both types can be of concern to public health workers, their clientele, and the public because of special problems they pose for management (handling and storage) and disposal. For a more inclusive description of medical waste see the definition at the end of this bulletin.

**Sharps** – As the name implies these wastes consist of medical devices meant to pierce or cut tissue. Items such as hypodermic needles, catheters, scalpels and dental tools are common sharp wastes. Since **September 1, 2008** sharp waste, *including household generated waste*, must be placed in approved sharps containers and either picked up by a licensed medical waste hauler or shipped to a state permitted medical waste disposal facility. Sharps were banned from municipal solid waste streams because of the risk they posed to solid waste collector workers and the public.

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/sharps>.

There are some state approved sharps processing devices that render sharps safe for disposal as solid waste. These devices are tested, approved, and placed on a list by the State Health Department.

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/sharps/household>.

**Biohazards** – This group is more diverse than sharps and can consist of waste contaminated with body fluids, old medicines, disinfectants, and microbiological cultures. The most common type of biohazard waste is material contaminated by fluid blood or body fluids and must go into special *medical waste bags* and be managed for disposal by licensed medical waste handlers/haulers.

Management of disinfectants, cold sterilants and medicine (pharmaceutical) waste, however, can be confusing. Often these wastes are considered *hazardous waste* under state law and must be managed as such. However depending on your status (generator classification) and type of hazardous waste (RCRA or non-RCRA), you may or may not have to manage them as hazardous waste. If managed properly they may qualify as medical waste or even solid waste. Mismanagement of these wastes can result in unintended ingestion by people and contamination of drinking water sources.

Attached to this bulletin is a guide (**Appendix A**), prepared by Butte County Environmental Health for assisting both businesses and the public for managing and disposing of sharps and pharmaceutical waste.

The key to utilizing the guide is to determine *generator* status. When considering management of these wastes, two laws overlap; the Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA) which regulates most medical waste and the California Hazardous Waste Control Law along with its regulatory partner Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) which regulates hazardous waste. Both laws designate a generator status:

### **Medical Waste Management Act**

**Small Quantity Generator (SQG), less than 200 lbs per month (*med-waste*);  
Large Quantity Generator (LQG), greater or equal to 200lbs per month.**

### **Hazardous Waste Control Law**

**Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG), less than 100 Kg per month (*haz-waste*);  
Small Quantity Generator (SQG), greater than or equal to 100 Kg but less than 1000Kg per month;  
Large Quantity Generator (LQG), greater than or equal to 1000 Kg per month.**

Examples of generators (mixed medical and hazardous waste)

CESQG – a doctor or dental office

SQG - a clinic or walk-in primary care facility

LQG - a hospital or large health care facility

Household generators are of course individuals such homeowners and renters, and are generally excluded from both state laws and regulation. Remember however, that household generators must properly dispose of sharps.

A shortage of facilities that can legally receive these wastes is a problem state-wide and Butte County is no exception. **Butte County is applying for funding to increase the number of sharps waste collection sites in the county and the state is sponsoring workshops to determine the most efficient and cost effective model for dealing with pharmaceutical wastes.** So in the future, the disposal problems may ease a little for generators in our community.

If you want more information concerning these wastes please utilize the following websites maintained by Cal EPA.

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Medications/Household/>

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Sharps/Household/>

### Definitions

**Medical waste means** any biohazardous, pathology, pharmaceutical , or trace chemotherapy waste not regulated by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976; sharps and trace

chemotherapy wastes generated in a health care setting in the diagnosis, treatment, treatment, immunization, or care of humans or animals; waste generated in autopsy or necropsy; waste generated during preparation of a body for final disposition such as cremation or interment; waste generated in research pertaining to the production or testing of microbials; wastes generated in research using human or animal pathogens; sharps and laboratory waste that poses a potential risk of infection to humans generated in the inoculation of animals in commercial farming operations; waste generated from the consolidation of home-generated sharps; and waste generated in the cleanup of trauma scenes. Biohazardous, pathology, pharmaceutical, sharps, and trace chemotherapy wastes that meet the conditions of this section are not subject to any of the hazardous waste requirements found in [Chapter 6.5 \(commencing with Section 25100\) of Division 20](#) .

**Medical waste does not include:** waste generated in food processing or biotechnology that does not contain an infectious agent, or an agent capable of causing an infection that is highly communicable; waste generated in biotechnology that does not contain human blood or blood products or animal blood or blood products suspected of being contaminated with infectious agents known to be communicable to humans or a highly communicable disease; urine, feces, saliva, sputum, nasal secretions, sweat, tears or vomitus, unless it contains visible or recognizable fluid blood; waste which is not biohazardous, such as paper towels, paper products, articles containing nonfluid blood, and other medical solid waste products commonly found in the facilities of medical waste generators; hazardous waste, radioactive waste, or household waste, including but not limited to, home-generated sharps waste; waste generated from normal and legal veterinarian, agricultural, and animal livestock management practices on a farm or ranch unless otherwise specified in law.

## MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL GUIDE (Appendix A)

PHARMACEUTICAL (PHARM) WASTE		
GENERATORS	REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS	DISPOSAL
HOUSEHOLD	Hazardous Waste Pharmaceutical & Medical Waste Pharmaceuticals generated by households are not regulated under the Hazardous Waste or Medical Waste laws except for sharps disposal (see SHARPS Household below).	*Required: No disposal requirements but best management practices are encouraged.  *Preferred: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility
CESQG (Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator) *Hazardous waste < 100kg/month	Pharm-waste that meet Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) criteria and those that meet California-only Hazardous Waste criteria (Title 22), will be regulated under the California Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA)	HHW or Medical Waste disposal facility
SQG (Small Quantity Generator)- *Hazardous waste ≥100 kg but <1000 kg/month Medical waste < 200 lbs/month	Hazardous Waste Pharmaceutical & Medical Waste Pharmaceuticals regulated under RCRA law and California Hazardous Waste Code (Title 22)	Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals must go to a State permitted Hazardous Waste Facility
LQG (Large Quantity Generator) *Hazardous waste ≥1000 kg/month Medical waste ≥ 200 lbs/month	Non – RCRA (California only) Pharmaceutical Waste regulated by California MWMA as a Biohazard	Medical Waste Pharmaceutical (non-RCRA) must go to a State permitted Medical Waste facility
SHARPS		
GENERATORS	REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS	DISPOSAL
HOUSEHOLD	Regulated as Medical Waste under California MWMA. Law amended in 2008 to <u>prohibit</u> disposal of household generated sharps into municipal solid waste stream.	*HHW Facility *Home-generated sharps consolidation point *Medical Waste generator's facility *Medical Waste mail-back facility
SQG & LQG SQG < 200 lbs/month LQG ≥ 200 lbs/month	Regulated as Medical Waste under California MWMA.	*Via registered medical waste hauler *At offsite Medical Waste treatment facility *Alternative treatment technology (e.g. encapsulation) *Medical Waste mail-back facility

\*Best management includes *not* disposing of pharm-waste down the drain, and various strategies to prevent tampering of pharm-waste after it has been thrown away by rendering it unusable prior to disposal.

## **MEDICAL WASTE SERVICE PROVIDERS (Appendix B)**

### **BUTTE REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY**

1101 Marauder St

Chico, CA 95973

(866) 429-2288. Emergency number (530) 343-5488

Operating hours: Fridays (9 am - 1 pm) and Saturdays (9am to 4pm).

They accept medical sharps waste, but not infectious medical waste. Disposal is free to Butte County residents who show proof of residency (garbage or utility bill). Sharps shall be in a rigid container labeled "Sharps", with the lid taped on.

### **STERICYCLE**

(866) 783-7422

Medical offices/ businesses can call or go on-line [www.Stericycle.com](http://www.Stericycle.com) for service. Service agreement shall be signed. Local pick-up service will be provided. Public/ individuals can call for service. They accept medical waste, sharps and pharmaceutical waste.

### **BUTTE COUNTY FIRE STATION NO. 64, KELLY RIDGE**

22 Walnut Ave

Oroville, CA 95965

(530) 538-7228

Operating hours: Saturday 9 am- 1 pm

Accepts sharps in rigid containers labeled "Sharps" with the lid taped on.

### **NORTHERN RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICES**

920 American Way

Paradise, CA 95969

(530) 876-3340

Operating hours: Monday through Friday (8 am- 5 pm)

Coordinator of the program: Jennifer Arbuckle

They accept sharps from the public. Sharps shall be in a special container. Containers are available for sale on site (approximately \$5). Containers with sharps shall be dropped off in a designated container at the facility.

**RECOLOGY BUTTE COLUSA COUNTIES**

**Household Hazardous Waste Facility**

2720 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Oroville, CA 95965

(530) 533-4783

Operating Hours: First and third Friday of each month (9 am- 2 pm)

They accept sharps from the public. Sharps shall be in an approved container. Containers with sharps shall be dropped off in a designated container at the facility. Questions, please call the operator before delivering sharps.

## **MEDICAL WASTE SERVICE PROVIDERS (Appendix C)**

### **DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

#### **BUTTE REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY**

1101 Marauder St

Chico, CA 95973

(866) 429-2288. Emergency number (530) 343-5488

Operating hours: Fridays (9 am - 1 pm) and Saturdays (9am to 4pm).

They accept medical sharps waste, but not infectious medical waste. Disposal is free to Butte County residents who show proof of residency (garbage or utility bill). Sharps shall be in a rigid container labeled "Sharps", with the lid taped on.

#### **STERICYCLE**

(866) 783-7422

1350 Schwab St

Red Bluff, CA 96080

Medical offices/ facilities only (no service to the public) can call or go on-line [www.Stericycle.com](http://www.Stericycle.com) for service.

Service agreement shall be signed. Local pick-up service will be provided. They accept medical waste, sharps and pharmaceutical waste.

#### **BARNETT MEDICAL WASTE SERVICES**

(510) 429-9911

Services primarily medical offices. Can arrange a local pick-up of home generated pharmaceuticals in original bottles with the labels and sharps in FDA approved containers only. Containers can be provided for additional charge.

#### **NORTHERN RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICES**

920 American Way

Paradise, CA 95969

(530) 876-3340

Operating hours: Monday through Friday (8 am- 5 pm)

Coordinator of the program: Jennifer Arbuckle

They accept sharps from the public. Sharps shall be in a special container. Containers are available for sale on site (approximately \$5). Containers with sharps shall be dropped off in a designated container at the facility.

**RECOLOGY BUTTE COLUSA COUNTIES**

**Household Hazardous Waste Facility**

2720 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Oroville, CA 95965

(530) 533-4783

Operating Hours: First and third Friday of each month (9 am- 2 pm)

They accept sharps from the public. Sharps shall be in an approved container. Containers with sharps shall be dropped off in a designated container at the facility. Questions, please call the operator before delivering sharps.

**MEDICAL WASTE SERVICE PROVIDERS (Appendix D)**  
**DISPOSAL OF HOME GENERATED SHARPS**

**SAFE SHARPS DISPOSAL KIOSK**



**Sharps disposal kiosks became available in Butte County through the grant from California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).**

**For safe disposal, place your home generated syringes, needles, and lancets in a one quart hard shell securely closed container marked “SHARPS” and take it to one of the kiosk locations below.**

**LOCATIONS FOR COLLECTION OF HOME GENERATED SHARPS IN BUTTE COUNTY**  
(Appendix E)

**CHICO**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Days/ Hours</b>	<b>Inside/ Outside</b>	<b>Photo</b>
<b>Butte County Public Health- Chico</b>	695 Oleander Ave, Chico 95926	530) 879- 3665	Mon-Fri 8:30 am- 5:00 pm	inside	
<b>Butte Regional HHW Facility</b>	1101 Marauder St, Chico, 95973	866) 429- 2288	Fri 9:00 am-1:00 pm Sat 9:00 am- 4:00 pm	outside	
<b>Waste Management - Chico</b>	2569 Scott Ave, Chico, 95926	530) 893- 8053	Mon- Fri 8:00 am- 5:00 pm	outside	
<b>Torres Homeless Shelter</b>	101 Silver Dollar Way, Chico, 95973	530) 891- 9049	24 hours 7 days/ week	outside	
<b>North Valley Indian Health Clinic</b>	845 W East Ave, Chico, CA 95926	530) 896- 9400	Mon- Fri 8:00 am- 5:00 pm	inside	

**OROVILLE**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Days/ Hours</b>	<b>Inside/ Outside</b>	<b>Photo</b>
<b>Butte County Public Health- Oroville</b>	78 Table Mountain Blvd, Oroville, 95965	530) 538- 7341	Mon- Fri 8:00 am- 5:00 pm	inside	
<b>Feather River Senior Center</b>	1335 Myers St, Oroville, 95966	530) 533- 8370	Tue, Thu, Sat 10:00 am- 4:00 pm	inside	
<b>Recology Butte Colusa Counties</b>	2720 S 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Oroville, 95966	530) 533- 5868	24 hours/ 7 days/ week	outside	
<b>Kelly Ridge Fire Station</b>	22 Walnut St, Oroville, 95966	530) 538- 7228	Sat 9:00 am- 1:00 pm	inside	

**GRIDLEY**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Days/ Hours</b>	<b>Inside/ Outside</b>	<b>Photo</b>
<b>Orchard Hospital</b>	240 Spruce St, Gridley, 95948	530) 846- 5671	24 hours/ 7 days/ week	outside	

**TOWN OF PARADISE**

Facility	Address	Phone	Days/ Hours	Inside/ Outside	Photo
<b>Northern Recycling &amp; Waste Service</b>	920 American Way, Paradise, 95969	530) 876-3340	Office Mon- Fri 8:00 am- 5:00 pm	inside	
			Recycling Center Mon- Sat 10:00 am-4:00 pm	outside	
<b>Feather River Health Center</b>	5125 Skyway, Paradise, 95969	530) 872-2000	24 hours, 7 days/ week	outside	

**NEAL ROAD RECYCLING & WASTE FACILITY  
(NEAL ROAD LANDFILL)**

Facility	Address	Phone	Days/ Hours	Inside/ Outside	Photo
<b>Neal Road Recycling &amp; Waste Facility (Neal Road Landfill)</b>	1023 Neal Road, Paradise, 95969	530) 345-4917	Daily 7:00 am- 4:00 pm	inside	